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# RELATIONS BETWEEN GERMANY AND PORTUGAL

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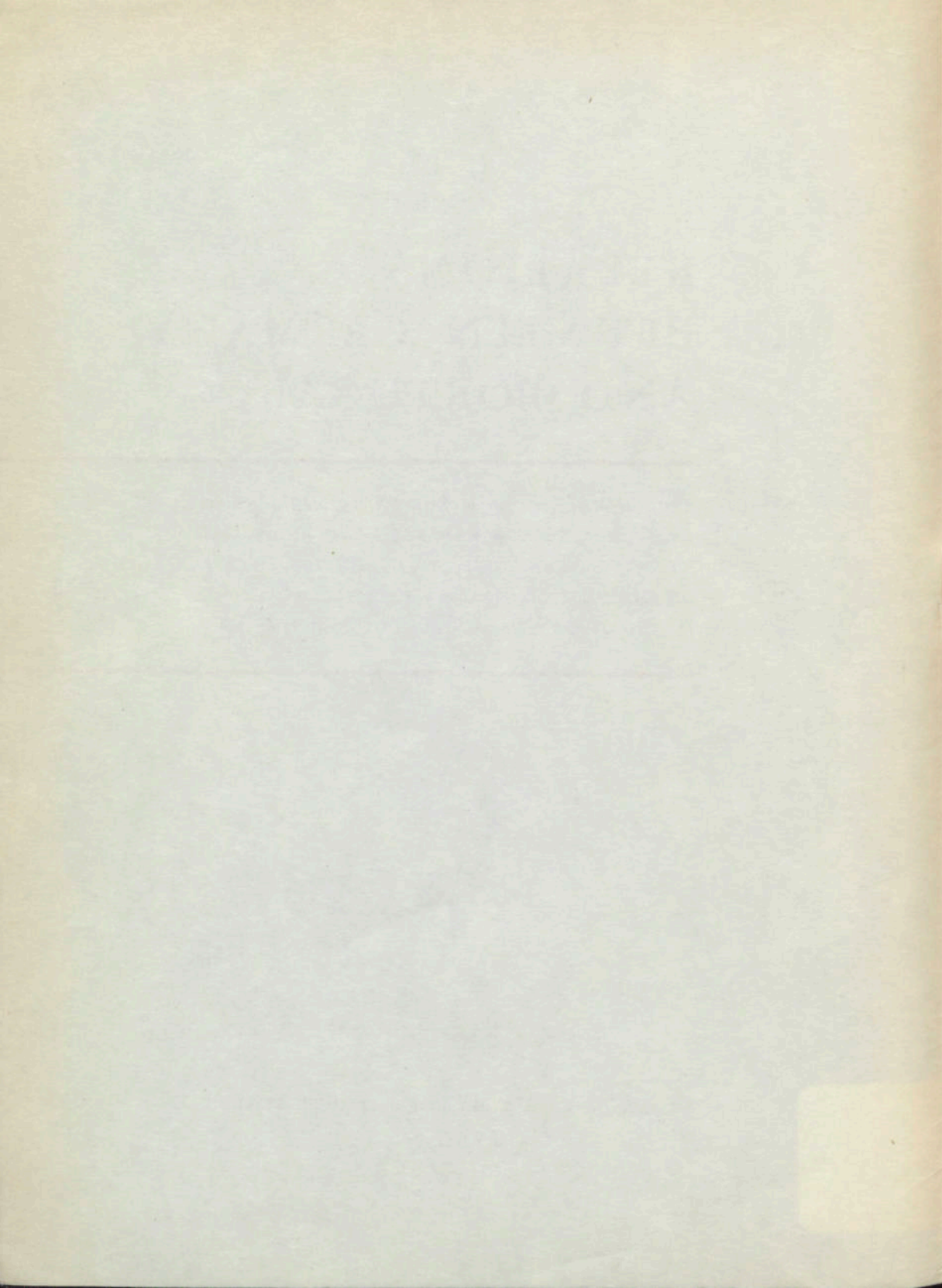
*SPEECH MADE BY H. E. THE PRIME MINISTER,  
PROFESSOR DOCTOR MARCELLO CAETANO,  
AT THE BANQUET GIVEN IN HONOUR OF THE CHANCELLOR  
OF THE FEDERAL GERMAN REPUBLIC,  
IN THE QUELUZ PALACE ON OCTOBER 24th 1968*

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SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DA INFORMAÇÃO E TURISMO

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Mr. Chancellor :

I am delighted to welcome you here, to greet you on behalf of the Portuguese Government and in my own name.

You have long occupied an outstanding place in the political life of your country. In your leadership of the affairs of the Federal German Republic you have demonstrated a vigorous personality, whose intelligence and lucid words of eloquence have gained the admiration and respect of your compatriots and all those throughout the World who desire true international co-operation and who sincerely love Peace.

You have come to Portugal at the invitation of the ancient, illustrious University of Coimbra, which has decided to grant you the degree of Doctor honoris causa, a rare distinction that will bind you to Portugal through our most precious possession, our cultural traditions. I wish at the very outset to associate myself with this just tribute, by expressing my high esteem for the merits that have so justly been rewarded.

Your visit, Mr. Chancellor, comes at a time of considerable difficulties and a world crisis. Problems



pile up, each newest one apparently more serious than its predecessors, while solutions in their turn seem successively more remote. The lovers and defenders of peace endeavour to find the best solution for the common good, but find their efforts continually being nullified or checked. Throughout the world the peoples worry and wonder, torn between the hope of better days and the dread of tomorrow.

It has not proved possible to steer a constructive course in matters of disarmament, world economic development and the stable organization of peace. Many topics vital to the purpose are still open questions, such as the reunification of the German homeland. The Portuguese Government will continue to defend as hitherto the right of the German people to be united within one homeland. It believes that so long as this aim is not achieved there can be little hope of reducing the tension that exists in Europe and even beyond it.

The general situation has been worsened by the decision of the Soviet Union to invade and occupy Czechoslovakia, which has brought the Russian armies into the heart of Central Europe and to the frontiers of the Federal German Republic. Faced with all these dangers and threats, we have continually proclaimed the need to defend the West, and we share the opinion of those who believe that this defence can only be effective through a reinforcement of the solidarity of the countries concerned, and especially the solidarity of the countries of Western Europe.

But this solidarity cannot be limited to a few matters located on the territory of Europe. The West is a bloc. At all times and everywhere, wherever in the world its values or vital interests are threatened, we have the duty of defending them. If Western Europe allows its adversaries to tighten their blockade it will infallibly be



stified. Our friends beyond the Atlantic would not then be able to enjoy the security of their freedom. This is why I venture to state that we Portuguese, in seeking tenaciously to maintain certain important strategic and territorial positions within the zone of influence of the West, have done no small service to the common cause, in spite of the fact that some have misunderstood our motive. Furthermore, in spite of everything, we shall continue to perform this service, because we are obeying an imperative call of our national conscience by so doing.

The relations between your country and mine continue to develop inside this spirit of the defence of a common cause. These relations are no novel feature, for they can be said to be historic in the centuries of contacts between Germany and Portugal. Down the centuries they have been multiplied in the fields of the economy, technical progress and above all culture.

I am happy to be able to state that at the present time co-operation between Portugal and Germany is being maintained with the same cordial, friendly spirit. The relations between our two countries are, in fact, Mr. Chancellor, excellent, and the predominant note, in the military field for purely defensive purposes as in the political and cultural spheres, has always been mutual understanding and the desire for reciprocal aid. Very useful co-operation has been given us from the German side. I would like to express the belief that on our part we give the Federal German Republic some useful collaboration. On the other hand, Mr. Chancellor, I am sure that your visit will permit the solution of any matter still awaiting a decision by the two governments, without difficulty and to our mutual satisfaction.



Mr. Chancellor:

I renew my welcome and my tribute. I am grateful for your acceptance of Portuguese hospitality here this evening. I thank Madame Kiesinger, the eminent representative of German women, for granting us the honour and distinction of her company and I ask her to accept the expression of my deep respect.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I ask you to accompany me in my toast to the health and personal happiness of the Chancellor of the Federal German Republic and Madame Kiesinger, the happiness of the President of the Federal German Republic, and the prosperity of the German people.











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